

cheering humanity that crowded the sidewalks, windows and even roofs of buildings, all eager to get a glimpse of him. A squad of his old regiment of Bough Eiders, who had gathered from the West to join in the welcome, acted as a guard of honor. On the afternoon of the same day, accompanied by members of his family, he went to his home in Oyster Bay, where he was greeted on arrival by his fellow townsmen," who assembled *en masse* to welcome him back.

The closing part of his speech at the Battery indicated clearly the course that he intended to pursue in future in regard to public affairs. By a few of the extreme radicals among his followers it was interpreted to mean that he would return to active politics, but his intimates knew that he had no such intention. He had said, before retiring from the Presidency, that the role of sage had no attractions for him; that he considered it both his privilege and duty to take active part in the discussion of public questions, commending or criticizing as his judgment dictated, but that he should never again be a candidate for political office, or engage in active political work. That he was firmly determined on this point when he landed in New York, there is no question; yet he had been in the country only ten days when he was persuaded, greatly against his will, to take sides in a factional political contest in New York State, and become the leader of one of the parties to it.

His first public appearance after his return

was at the
Commencement exercises at Harvard
University. While
there he met Governor Hughes of New York,
who fairly
besieged him to champion his cause in a
contest that he was
waging against the most powerful of the
leaders of the
Eepublican party organization for the
enactment of a direct
primary law. The Governor's appeal proved to
be irresistible,
and in explanation of his yielding,
Eoosevelt said in in-
troducing him to the Alumni luncheon over
which he was
presiding on June 29, 1910:

" Our Governor has a very persuasive way
with him. I
had intended to keep absolutely clear from
any kind of